

BRUTAL ATTEMPT TO MURDER HIS MOTHER

The history of crime in Fairfield West Worcester street in a three room

The history of time in Fairfield county in all its chapters has often been besmirched by shocking instances of a repulsive nature, but none so unnatural in all its phases as that of the attempted matricide of Russell C. Branch of Danbury on the evening of Oct. 14th, the same evening that Napoleon Bonaparte fired the shot which hushed the life of Rome P. Demery. Branch tried but did not succeed in killing his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Branch, aged 83 years, at her little apartment on West Worcester street in Danbury. Branch, when seen and asked from his family because of his drinking habits for half a score years, and had even turned his back on his own mother when she approached him in her old age, said:

West Worcester street in a three room flat over a grocery and meat store. She has been married twice, both of her husbands died. She is now 23 years. She has two sons living, Russell C., the accused, and William A., a resident of Brewster, N.Y. Russell was the younger of the two, the other being nearly 20 years old. She was also lived with Russell K. Danbury, but they could not seem to get along. It was at that time she had earned a living by her own hands, help from her sisters and married son. Russell never contributed to her support in the last ten years.

"He is a drunkard," said Mrs. Branch. "He can take an awful lot of liquor without showing it." His conduct toward her in her feeble old age was so disgusting and pleasant to her that she said, "I could not do anything to eat if there was anything left."

tered the home of his mother and while she was alone in bed choked her almost to death. Immediately thereafter when she showed signs of resistance he struck her a blow on the head which rendered her unconscious. When she awoke she found her hands pinioned and found her own son trying to force carbolic acid down her throat. With renewed life she was able to firmly set her feet against the efforts of her son from carrying out his dastardly act.

At that her lips, nose and cheeks were terribly bruised so much so that she again lapsed into unconsciousness not coming to till 9 o'clock the next morning. She had recognized her own son as the perpetrator of the crime and fell on his face, from the lamp which she always left lighted in her room.

Brench was this morning placed on trial and about 10 o'clock he appeared in the Superior court, but pleaded not guilty. His trial then began, following the summoning of the jury.

The first witness called was Dr. Edward H. Stratton, medical examiner for Danbury. The physician stated that he was called to the scene and was called into the office of Prosecuting Attorney J. Moss Ives to examine

I could have it." Mrs. Branch said she carried many black marks, from the time she was a child, on her face. She was forced to leave him, after he had kicked her in the ankle, for fear she was obliged to seek medical treatment. She said she was married 20 years ago she has tried to live with him twice. The first time lasted for 10 months, but she and her son went for two weeks. During the last 20 years she has received aid from her mother and sister. A sister in New York City always sends her money and the two other sisters contribute to help support occasionally while her husband is in the hospital.

In relating her provisions, Mrs. Branch said she was in the kitchen on the night of the assault, Mrs. Branch said. "The first I knew of anything was when I heard my son crying, my son was crying and screaming in the throat. I tried to scream to the fore and not. Then I felt a blow on the forehead and a cloth was drawn over my face. I was then in a state of unconsciousness. When I came to, I recognized my son Russell. I always have a lighted lamp burning in my room and I was in the room at the time of his rape. He had one knee in the pit of my stomach, his hand clutched my breast and he was in other man-

(Continued)

chin, cheeks and nose were covered with a mass of scabs, caused by some caustic liquid applied at least three or four days previously. Carbolic acid, he stated, was a caustic matter.

Mrs. Branch, the victim was the next witness called. She had to be

**Hartford Crooks May
Be Men Who Looted
Maplewood Ave. Home**

assisted the witness 60X by the door to the attendance room. She was 5 feet 6 inches tall, had brown hair and brown eyes, wore a white dress and a white bow's bonnet, below which waved tresses of pure white hair. She showed a set of excellent teeth, which she later stated were over a half-century old. Her complexion was bright, but the line on her face clearly denoted her advanced years. Her answers were snappy and in a clear voice, but she seemed to have been hearing, the attorneys having to ask her questions in a loud tone. She possesses a remarkable memory, naming dates and places, almost before the questioner could finish the question.

Mrs. Branch stated that she would be 83 years of age on the 5th of

It is believed that the men who robbed the home of Mrs. Michael P. Carroll of 204 Maplewood avenue, Tuesday afternoon are now in the hands of the law. The men were given their names as Fred Lewis and William Levee. They were arrested in the Capitol city Tuesday night.

They were found in the missing way from the Clair hotel.

One of the local detectives left the city today for Hartford to identify the stolen articles. Levee tried to shoot Detective James Satoro who captured the two men.

He is a victim of the drug habit. These men have been working in Hartford for

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NOTICE.

I desire to inform my friends and the public generally that hereafter I will be found at Martin Horschler's tonorial parlors under the bank, Wall and Main streets, where my former customers will find their cups. To my former patrons I desire to express my gratitude and hope to meet

them at my present place of business. Piano Co., 544 Noble Ave.
"AL" THIERFELDER T 19 t o o